

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
	:	Examiner: Daniel C. Murray
TAKATOSHI HIROSE)	
	:	Art Unit: 2443
Application No.: 10/551,174)	
	:	Confirmation No.: 4239
Filed: September 29, 2005)	
	:	
For: INFORMATION PROCESSING)	
APPARATUS AND CONNECTION	:	
CONTROL METHOD FOR JOINING)	
A WIRELESS NETWORK (as amended)	:	December 29, 2008 (Monday)

Mail Stop: Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT AMENDMENT

Sir:

This paper is filed in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed on November 25, 2008. That Notice identifies as non-compliant two deletions of text of five characters or less, where the deletion is marked with a strike-through rather than using double brackets (in Claims 1 and 10).

Applicant believes that that Notice is erroneous, in that those two deletions were marked in a manner specifically authorized by 37 CFR § 1.121 (c)(2), quoted in the Notice:

'(c)(2) When claim text with markings is required. All claims being currently amended in an amendment paper shall be presented in the claim listing, indicate a status of "currently amended," and be submitted with markings to indicate the changes that have been made relative to the immediate prior version of the claims. The text of any added subject matter must be shown by underlining the added text. The text of any deleted matter must be shown by strike-through except that double brackets placed before and after the deleted characters may be used to show deletion of five or fewer consecutive characters. The text of any deleted subject matter must be shown by being placed within double brackets if strike-through cannot be easily perceived. Only claims having the status of "currently amended," or "withdrawn" if also being amended, shall include markings. If a withdrawn claim is currently amended, its status in the claim listing may be identified as "withdrawn- currently amended." [emphases added]'

The MPEP provides the following comment on this provision:

'The changes in any amended claim must be shown by strike-through (for deleted matter) or underlining (for added matter) with 2 exceptions: (1) for deletion of five or fewer consecutive characters, double brackets may be used (e.g., [[error]]); (2) if strike-through cannot be easily perceived (e.g., deletion of number "4" or certain punctuation marks), double brackets must be used (e.g., [[4]]). [emphasis added]' MPEP § 714 IIc(B).

Thus, double brackets are required if, for example, the deleted text consists of characters or punctuation marks whose shape inherently make a strike-through imperceptible or nearly so.

Applicant appreciates that the quoted passage from the MPEP gives "4" and "certain punctuation marks" only as examples, but at the same time reads this provision as meaning that an applicant is permitted to use a strike-through, even for just a single character, as long as the strike-through *can* be seen when superimposed on the character. Nonetheless, to eliminate this as an issue, Applicant submits herewith, beginning on page 4, a substitute listing of the claims, adopting the manner of marking apparently preferred by the Examiner.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Leonard P Diana/
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